

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Santiago, Chile, 4 to 15 November 2002

FAO Collaboration with CITES
Through A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

This document was prepared by the United States of America.

1. The agenda of the FAO Eighth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade of the Committee of Fisheries (COFI:FT/VIII) in Bremen, Germany from February 12-16, 2002 listed several issues related to CITES listing, implementation, and treaty interpretation. In a paper prepared by FAO for these agenda issues,, it was suggested, among other means, to address some or all of these issues, that a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) should be developed between FAO and CITES to formalize collaboration on these and other fish trade issues of common concern.
2. A specific recommendation on a MOU between FAO and CITES was made at the conclusion of the Eighth Session of the Sub-Committee of Fish Trade and has been referred, with the other COFI:FT/VIII recommendations, to the February 2003 meeting of the 25th Session of the FAO Committee of Fisheries (COFI) for action. The specific recommendations and the summary of the COFI:FT/VIII discussions are in the Annex 1, FAO Fisheries Report No. 673, Paragraphs 15-22 and Appendix F.
3. The United States asks the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES to review this document and suggest a course of action and time frame to initiate and finalize such a MOU on all CITES-specific issues under review by FAO. This MOU could be made between the CITES Standing Committee and the FAO committee comparable to the Standing Committee and should recognize the possible financial and human resource commitments such a MOU would require from both organizations.